

WHEREAS; first celebrated on June 20, 2001, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, World Refugee Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the resilience refugees have shown in the face of unimaginable circumstances, the new lives they have built for themselves and their families, and the positive impact they have across the state; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has a rich history of opening its doors to people of all backgrounds, experiences, and walks of life, and especially during Wisconsin’s 2026 Year of the Neighbor, the state champions the importance of community, togetherness, and celebrating all the neighbors across the state that make Wisconsin the wonderful place it is to call home, including Wisconsin’s vibrant refugee community; and

WHEREAS; celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the Wisconsin 2026 World Refugee Day theme, “We Belong/You Belong: Joy and Unity Against the Odds,” embodies the collective hope and desire to inspire and motivate one another, as we continue in the building of our society and nation, and as we find solutions and answers—all in solidarity with refugees; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin strives to always serve refugee and immigrant communities with respect and dignity, acknowledging the hardships they have encountered, recognizing their courage, sacrifice, and resilience, and celebrating their vast and valuable contributions to communities and the state as a whole; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin proudly joins all Wisconsinites in uplifting refugee voices, honoring refugee neighbors, and supporting local agencies that serve refugees and their families here in Wisconsin, throughout our nation, and around the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 20 2026 as

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 10th day of June 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State